

**SAN PEDRO MENTAL HEALTH HOSTS LAPD/LACDMH CRISIS RESPONSE
PROGRAM ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
By Maria Salas, MPA**

Kathrine Lundy, Program Head welcomes attendees.



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San Pedro Mental Health hosted a LAPD/LACDMH Quarterly Mental Health Crisis Response Program Advisory Board meeting on March 25th, 2015. The goal of this meeting was to collaborate and educate the community about the invaluable services provided by the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH).

Discussions were led by LAPD's Mental Evaluation Unit (MET) officers, who shared newly implemented training strategies in approaching and engaging individuals with mental illness, and by LACDMH staff, who shared information regarding the System-wide Mental Assessment Response Teams (SMART).

Many service providers in attendance shared free and/or low cost services available to the community in a wonderful demonstration of true collaboration and comradery among our community partners.



Officer Antonio showing video of LAPD's newly implemented training.

Community partners present were: [Behavioral Health Services \(BHS\)](#) , [Fred Brown Recovery](#), [Del Amo Behavioral Health](#), [Department of Children & Family Services \(DCFS\)](#), [Harbor Regional Center](#), [Heritage Clinic](#), [Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority \(LAHSA\)](#), [NAMI South Bay](#), [Project Return](#), [SHAWL House](#), [TeleCare](#), [Westside Center for Independent Living \(WCIL\)](#), [Wilmington Community Clinic](#). Consumers and other interested members of the community attended as well.



Lieutenant Bixler and Detective Dempsey answering questions.

We also had special guests in attendance such as representatives from Councilman Buscaino's Office, Congresswoman Janice Hahn's Office, Mayor Garcetti's Office and the District Attorney's Office.

Local police officers, Lopez and Peterson, of LAPD Harbor Division stopped by to share their newly implemented "Quality of Life Patrol Team," a specialized team of officers that actively outreach and address issues of homelessness in the 15th Council District, including San Pedro and Wilmington.



Officers Lopez and Peterson of LAPD Harbor Division shared about Quality of Life Patrol Team.

Our friends at Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA) Emergency Response Team talked about designated Council District 15 homeless outreach efforts and were

happy to be an integral part of the collaborative efforts to end homelessness in our community.



Gary and Pierre of LAHSA introduce the newly assigned CD15 homeless outreach team.

An open dialogue and exchange of information was shared by all attendees in hopes of providing advice and assistance regarding mental health issues in the community. It is only through the exchange of information and ideas that we can truly succeed in finding ways to attain an optimal level of service to our clients and our community.



Paul, a Peer Advocate at Telecare TAY, shared his success stories.

The resounding message at this great meeting of the minds was that community collaborations are essential in strengthening the community by developing partnerships and pooling resources in order to fully promote a healthy lifestyle and support hope, wellness and recovery.

For more information about LAPD's Mental Evaluation Unit (MET) call Sgt. Dempsey at 213-996-1327 or email him at 30036@lapd.lacity.org You may also call LACDMH Program Head Charles Lennon, LCSW, at 213- 996-1325 for information about System-wide Mental Assessment Response Teams (SMART) which can also be found on the [DMH](#) Website.